

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend claims 1, 3 and 5-7 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for producing a nonantigenic stabilizer, comprising:  
a decomposing step comprising ~~specifically~~ specifically decomposing gelatin or collagen using collagenase to form a decomposed gelatin or collagen, and  
a purifying step comprising purifying the decomposed matter to obtain a nonantigenic stabilizer,  
wherein said nonantigenic stabilizer comprises 70 wt% or more of a single peptide chain has having a molecular weight of from greater than 1,000 to not more than 20,000 Da and an amino acid sequence of (Gly-X-Y)<sub>n</sub>, and wherein X and Y are any amino acid residues other than Gly, and n is a natural number.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said decomposing step is performed by a column process.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method according to claim 1 for producing a nonantigenic stabilizer, comprising:

a decomposing step comprising specifically decomposing gelatin or collagen using collagenase to form a decomposed gelatin or collagen, and  
a purifying step performed by gel filtration using a gel filtration system to purify the decomposed gelatin or collagen so as to obtain a nonantigenic stabilizer,

wherein said nonantigenic stabilizer comprises 70 wt% or more of a single peptide chain has having a molecular weight of from greater than 0 to not more than 20,000 Da and an amino acid

sequence of (Gly-X-Y)<sub>n</sub>, and wherein X and Y are any amino acid residues other than Gly, and n is a natural number

~~wherein said purifying step is performed by gel filtration using a gel filtration system.~~

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said purifying step is performed by reversed phase chromatography.

5. (Twice Amended) A nonantigenic stabilizer comprising 70 wt% or more of a single peptide chain having a molecular weight of greater than 0 and not more than 20,000 Da, having an amino acid sequence of (Gly-X-Y)<sub>n</sub>, X and Y being any amino acid residue other than Gly and n being a natural number,

said nonantigenic stabilizer being obtained by purifying by gel filtration using a gel filtration system or by reversed phase chromatography after specifically decomposing gelatin or collagenase;

wherein said nonantigenic stabilizer is not bonded with any other compound, does not have a triple helix structure, and no transition temperature is observed

~~the nonantigenic stabilizer comprises a peptide whose molecular weight is greater than 0 and not more than 20,000 Da, and having an amino acid sequence of (Gly-X-Y)<sub>n</sub>, (X and Y being any amino acid residue and n being a natural number number), and wherein no temperature transition is observed.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a nonantigenic stabilizer, comprising:  
a decomposing step comprising specifically using a column process to decompose gelatin or collagen using collagenase to form a decomposed gelatin or collagen, and  
a purifying step comprising purifying by gel filtration using a gel filtration system or reversed

phase chromatography the decomposed matter to obtain a nonantigenic stabilizer,

wherein said nonantigenic stabilizer comprises a single peptide chain having has a molecular weight of greater than 1,000 and not more than 20,000 Da, and an amino acid sequence of (Gly-X-Y)<sub>n</sub>, and wherein X and Y are any amino acid residues other than Gly, and n is a natural number.

7. (Currently Amended) A nonantigenic stabilizer obtained by purifying by gel filtration using a gel filtration system or by reversed phase chromatography after specifically decomposing gelatin or collagenase, using a column process,

wherein the nonantigenic stabilizer comprises a single peptide chain whose molecular weight is greater than  $\theta$  1,000 and not more than 20,000 Da and having an amino acid sequence of (Gly-X-Y)<sub>n</sub>, X and Y, X and Y being any amino acid residues other than Gly, said nonantigenic stabilizer is not bonded with any other compound, does not have a triple helix structure, and no transition temperature is observed.

Kindly add new claims 8 and 9 as follows:

8. (New) The nonantigenic stabilizer of claim 5, further comprising from 0.005 to 15 wt% of a physiologically active substance.

9. (New) The nonantigenic stabilizer of claim 7, further comprising from 0.005 to 15 wt% of a physiologically active substance.